

3.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Construction and operation of the proposed project could affect certain services and utilities supplied by communities within the designated project area.

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Public services and utilities that may be used by the proposed project are provided by Umatilla and Morrow Counties and by the communities of Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, Pendleton, Echo (in Umatilla County), Irrigon and Boardman (in Morrow County).

3.12.1.1 Utilities

Sewer and Sewage Treatment

Domestic sewage from ranches and residences in rural parts of the project area is discharged to individual, privately owned septic tank and drain field systems. Some of the larger communities have engineered wastewater collection and treatment systems.

The city of Hermiston collects sewage from residents of the city and discharges it after treatment to the Umatilla River. Although Hermiston's treatment plant has a nominal capacity of 10,977.7 m³/day (2.9 million gallons per day [MGD]), higher than expected organic loads have reduced its effective capacity to between 6,435.2 and 7,132.3 m³/day (1.7 and 1.9 MGD). The plant is currently operating close to its capacity. The City of Hermiston Public Works Department has advised that retrofit of the facility to increase sewage capacity is probably 3 to 5 years out (Schiffner 2000).

Water Supply

Ranches and residences in rural parts of the project area obtain their water from individual privately owned wells. There are a few community potable water systems in the project area, and the Port of Umatilla operates a system that supplies raw Columbia River water to industrial uses and the City of Hermiston.

The City of Hermiston supplies potable and raw water obtained from wells and the aforementioned Port of Umatilla raw water system to community residents. The city's potable water system has a capacity of about 45,425 m³/day (12 MGD) and supplies between 11,356 and 26,498 m³/day (3 and 7 MGD) to residents (Hermiston Community Profile 2000). The Port of Umatilla's raw water system provides around 15,142 m³/day

(4 MGD) of domestic water to the region and approximately 5,300 m³/day (1.4 MGD) of this goes to Hermiston residents (Napolitano 2000).

Stormwater

Because the project area receives little precipitation and local soils are quite permeable, storm water runoff volumes are small. In rural areas, if runoff occurs, it drains to ditches, farm ponds, creeks and the Umatilla River. A few communities have separate storm drainage collection systems. These include the cities of Hermiston, Pendleton and Boardman.

Solid Waste

Municipal solid waste from the communities in the project area is collected and taken to transfer stations rather than landfills. The Hermiston and Pendleton landfills were closed as of April 1994. Now, franchised haulers transfer the waste to disposal sites that are mostly outside the project area. The following franchises service Umatilla County and parts of Morrow County (Perry 2000):

- East Umatilla County: Humbert Refuse and Recycling
- South Umatilla County: Pilot Rock Sanitation (hauler)
- Hermiston: Sanitary Disposal, Inc. (hauler) and Desert Wind, Inc. (disposal site) that also services Boardman
- Pendleton: Pendleton Sanitary Service (hauler and disposal site)

3.12.1.2 *Police and Fire Protection*

The following is a description of the current levels of police and fire protection available to each of the communities within the project area. The discussion is summarized in Table 3.12.1.

Oregon State Police

OSP officers are stationed in Pendleton, Hermiston, Heppner and Milton-Freewater. There are 22 officers in patrol services (Hoffman 2000).

Umatilla County

The West County office of the County Sheriff's Department has six deputies including one domestic violence deputy. The West County office services Umatilla, Hermiston, Stanfield and Echo and would provide first response to the proposed Umatilla Generating Project (LeBlanc 2000).

Hermiston

The Hermiston Police Department provides police protection services within the city limits. The Department maintains a staff of 21 officers and 10 dispatchers. The Hermiston Police Department would provide secondary response capabilities for the proposed Umatilla Generating Project through its mutual aid agreement with the Sheriff's Department. The Department coordinates emergency response through the Hermiston Safety Center (Megan 2000).

The fire department has 18 line fighters, 25 volunteer firefighters, one Chief, one Assistant Chief, one fire marshal, one secretary, and one part-time assistant, a total of 22 full-time staff. The Hermiston Rural Fire Protection District covers the area in which the proposed Umatilla Generating Project would be sited. The Hermiston Fire Department would provide fire and protection services to the proposed power plant site. The department is equipped to handle fire, medical emergencies, and hazardous materials spills (Stockman 2000).

Umatilla

There are eight officers and one Chief. There is one part-time code enforcer and one daytime dispatcher. Emergency 911 response is dispatched through the Hermiston Safety Center. The Department maintains mutual aid agreements with nearby police departments, the County Sheriff's Department and Oregon State Police (Schaefer 2000).

The Umatilla Fire District has 30 volunteers and one full-time and one part-time staff member. Umatilla has mutual aid agreements with all of the other fire districts in the project area (Stokoe 2000).

Stanfield

The Stanfield Police Department has five officers and six reserves. The department contracts out for dispatchers and previously used the Hermiston Safety Center for 911 emergency response dispatch. However, as of September 1, 2000, 911 response is now controlled by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department (Akers 2000).

The Stanfield Fire Department has 18 volunteer firefighters and one full-time staff member. The Department just signed a mutual aid agreement with both Umatilla and Morrow counties (Wheelan 2000).

Echo

Police protection services are provided by Umatilla County through mutual aid agreement with the Sheriff's Department's West End office (Echo Community Profile 2000).

The Echo Fire Station has 25 volunteers on its roster. The station has mutual aid agreements with Stanfield, Hermiston, Pendleton, and Pilot Rock. Echo also has two satellite fire stations, one at Buttercrick that would be closer to the proposed Umatilla Generating Project and the other near Pendleton off I-84 (Enright 2000).

Pendleton

In the Pendleton Police Department, there are 22 officers and one open seat at present. There are six dispatchers and one dispatch supervisor. The police department has its own 911 capabilities (Powell 2000).

There are 24 full-time employees at the fire department along with 20 volunteer firefighters. With supervisors and support staff, the total is 52 staff. The Department has three fire stations that serve a population of 17,330 people and an area of 38.1 km² (14.7 mi²) (Pendleton Community Profile 2000).

Irrigon

Police protection services for the City of Irrigon is provided through mutual aid agreements with the Morrow County Sheriff's Department (Irrigon Community Profile 2000).

The Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District has 19 volunteer firefighters, as well as mutual aid agreements (Irrigon Community Profile 2000).

Boardman

The Boardman Police Department has 12 paid and reserve officers. The Department maintains mutual aid agreements with the Morrow County Sheriff's Department and the Oregon State Police. Morrow County Emergency Management provides 911 emergency response services (Boardman Community Services, 2000).

The Boardman Rural Fire Protection District maintains a roster of 14 paid and volunteer firefighters and mutual aid agreements with other districts (Boardman Community Profile, 2000).

3.12.1.3 *Health Care*

The Good Shepherd Community Health Care System in Hermiston provides the health care services in the project area. St. Anthony Hospital is just outside the 48-kilometer (30-mile) radius of the project area and provides health care services to communities such as Stanfield and Pendleton that are within the project area. The Hermiston Community Health Clinic provides outpatient care, laboratory, pharmacy, outreach and social services. The project would be served by the Good Shepherd Community Health Care System, which is a fully equipped hospital including a helicopter pad for air evacuation. Good Shepherd Community Health Care System has arrangements with hospitals in Pendleton, The Dalles, and the Tri-Cities area to handle overloads in the event of an emergency situation (e.g., failure of primary and back-up power supplies).

3.12.1.4 *Libraries*

Libraries are available in the communities of Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, Pendleton, Echo, and Boardman. The community of Irrigon does not have a library.

3.12.1.5 *Schools*

This section discusses the enrollment and capacity of the schools within the project area. There are six school districts within the 48-kilometer (30-mile) project area: Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield, Echo, Pendleton, Irrigon, and Boardman. There are 25 schools located within the six school districts. Table 3.12.2 summarizes the number of students currently enrolled in each school and the current level of capacity.

Hermiston

A new high school is being built in Hermiston. Part of the new high school was functional as of September 2000, providing a total capacity of 1400 students. As of September 2000, Hermiston High School was operating at 81 percent capacity.

The architectural capacity for Sandstone Middle School is 750. Based on this and the midyear enrollment of 376, the school is at 50 percent capacity. However, according to school officials, the architectural capacity is too high for feasible operating conditions so the reported percent capacity based on this is an underestimate.

Highland Hills Elementary School has a total capacity of 655 with three modular classrooms in addition to the permanent classrooms. The school is at 78 percent capacity

with midyear enrollment. West Park Elementary School (K through 5) has a capacity of about 535 students. Hermiston plans to build a new elementary school to accommodate increasing demand and alleviate the burden on Rocky Heights and Sunset elementary schools (Michael 2000).

Umatilla

Clara Brownell Middle School in the City of Umatilla is made up of grades 6, 7 and 8 and McNary Elementary School is K through 5. Capacity for the Umatilla High School is around 500 students (Tracy 2000).

Stanfield

The Stanfield School District planned to have a new elementary school built by January 2001 (Lee 2000).

Pendleton

All the schools in the Pendleton School District are at capacity. There are no plans for system expansion at present (Jordan 2000).

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures

There would be no significant adverse effects on public services during the construction or operation of the project. Hiring mostly local personnel to operate the project would minimize any additional demands on public services.

Impact 3.12.1 The proposed power plant may affect the capacity of local utilities.

Sewage Collection and Treatment

Very little sanitary sewage would be generated by operation of the proposed Umatilla Generating Project. The wastewater would be discharged to a septic tank and drain field at a rate of about 1,893 liters (500 gallons) per day.

Employees would be hired from the local area to the extent practicable. Therefore, the project would not measurably increase the local population nor increase demand on local sewage collection and treatment systems. During construction, a special contractor would provide chemical toilet service.

Process and Cooling Water

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would obtain water from the Port of Umatilla's raw water system. No new water rights or permits would be needed to accommodate the proposed project's peak (14,006.0 m³/day [3.7 MGD]) and annual average (12,113.3 m³/day [3.2 MGD]) water requirements (see Section 3.3). The raw water system was designed to meet the proposed project's expected demand. Therefore, water use for process and cooling would not impact the ability of the local municipal water system to serve its other users.

Domestic Water Supply

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would install a water treatment facility on site to purify some of the raw water received from the Port of Umatilla for the project's minimal domestic water needs. During construction, bottled water would be used as the potable water source for workers.

Storm Water

Storm water runoff from the proposed power plant site would be collected from impermeable surfaces and routed to a detention basin on site. Water remaining after evaporation would be used in the cooling water system. Therefore, storm water discharge from the proposed power plant would not adversely impact the ability of the storm water system to provide services to communities within the project area.

Solid Waste

The capacity of the solid waste removal system for the project area is sufficient to adequately manage current and foreseeable waste. The facilities managing waste for Umatilla County are designed to handle two and a half to three times the current volume of waste. Solid waste for the Hermiston area is hauled about 32 to 40 kilometers (20 to 25 miles) away to a disposal site that has a design capacity of 50 years, taking current growth rates into account (McHenry 2000). It is estimated that the operation of the proposed power plant would produce approximately 36 metric tons (40 tons) of domestic solid waste per year. The estimated amount of construction wastes is 4.5 metric tons (5.0 tons) per month. Construction wastes from the proposed power plant would mainly consist of pallets, wood packing, steel banding, steel cutoffs, cardboard packing, wood cutoffs, concrete waste, and office refuse. Therefore, without a significant permanent population increase and with a construction period of only two years, the proposed Umatilla Generating Project would not compromise the capacity of the solid waste facilities in the area.

Recommended Mitigation Measures No measures beyond those included in the proposed project are recommended.

Impact 3.13.2 Proposed project may affect the level of service provided by local public services.

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would employ approximately 10 full-time staff who would be hired from the local area, as practicable. As a result, there would be no measurable population increase attributed to the project; and therefore the project would not place additional demand on local police and fire protection services.

Short-term increases in demand workers for local public services from in-migration of out-of-area construction is not expected to cause significant impacts on the level of service because on-site services are planned and a health and safety program would be put in place for the construction period.

Police

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would place an insignificant demand on local police and fire services. The new plant would be fenced and would operate 24 hours a day with personnel on site at all times, thereby minimizing opportunities for theft and vandalism. Police protection provided by the Oregon State Police and the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department (West County office) is adequate to serve the project and communities in the project area (Leblanc 2000).

Fire

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would be constructed with full hydrants in addition to a sprinkler and deluge system. Plant employees would be trained in emergency first aid procedures. The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would provide all fire protection equipment and facilities in accordance with the Oregon Fire Code and would not significantly impact the Hermiston Fire Department's ability to provide service to the community (Stearns 1995).

Health Care

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would not adversely impact medical services in the project area given that the full-time employees would be hired from the local community, as practicable. The Good Shepherd Community Health Care System is the

closest emergency health care facility to the plant and would be capable of providing services to the plant in case of emergency.

Libraries

The project would not adversely affect project area libraries because it would not result in significant increase in population in the project area.

Schools

Because the proposed Umatilla Generating Project would require only about 10 full-time employees who would be hired from the local community, as practicable, no significant new numbers of households would be created. Consequently, there would be no significant increase in the student population. Therefore, the new plant would not adversely impact the school districts in the project area.

The construction work force is not expected to include families. Therefore, temporary increases in the project area population caused by in-migration of an average of 170 construction workers over a two-year period would not result in significant increases in the student population. No adverse impact to local schools would occur.

Recommended Mitigation Measures No measures beyond those included in the proposed project are recommended.

3.12.3 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project would result in a substantial increase in the local property tax base but very little increase in the demand for public services. Consequently, the proposed project would enable provision of a better level of public services than is provided today. The cumulative effects of proposed project and other industrial developments in the area on the demand for public services would depend on the nature of the future industries. If future projects were similar to the proposed project, there would be a cumulatively beneficial effect on the quality of public services.

**Table 3.12.1:
Summary of Police and Fire Services**

Jurisdiction	Police		Fire	
	Staffing	Services	Staffing	Services
Oregon State Police	22 officers	Primary Response		
Umatilla County (Sheriff's Department West County Office)	6 deputies	Primary Response		
Hermiston	21 officers 10 dispatchers	Mutual Aid/Secondary Response	18 line-fighters 25 volunteers 3 full-time staff	Primary Response
Umatilla	8 officers 1 Chief 1 part-time code enforcer 1 day-time dispatcher	Mutual Aid	30 volunteers 1 full-time staff 1 part-time	Mutual Aid
Stanfield	5 officers 6 reserves	Mutual Aid	18 volunteers 1 full-time	Mutual Aid
Echo	None	N/A	25 volunteers	Mutual Aid
Pendleton	22 officers 7 dispatchers	Mutual Aid	31 full-time 20 volunteers	Mutual Aid
Irrigon	None	N/A	19 volunteers	Mutual Aid
Boardman	12 officers	Mutual Aid	14 volunteers	Mutual Aid

Source: Personal communication with officials from the police and fire departments in the project area.

Table 3.12.2:
Summary of Level of Service of the School Districts in the Project Area

School	Enrollment	Percent Capacity*
Hermiston		
Hermiston H.S.	1129	81
Armand Larive M.S.	552	Not available
Sandstone M.S.	376	50
Highland Hills E.S.	512	78
Rocky Heights E.S.	511	At Capacity
Sunset E.S.	461	At Capacity
West Park E.S.	496	93
Umatilla		
Umatilla H.S.	300	60
Clara Brownell M.S.	300	At Capacity
McNary Heights E.S.	700	At Capacity
Stanfield		
Stanfield H.S.	250	Not available
West E.S.	255	Not available
Echo		
Echo Public School		
Pendleton		
Pendleton H.S.	1,020	At Capacity
Sunridge M.S.	860	At Capacity
Hawthorne E.S.	338	At Capacity
McKay E.S.	283	At Capacity
Lincoln E.S.	151	At Capacity
Washington E.S.	331	At Capacity
West Hills E.S.	145	At Capacity
Sherwood E.S.	457	At Capacity
Irrigon		
Columbia M.S.	365	At Capacity
A.C. Houghton E.S.	302	At Capacity
Boardman		
Riverside H.S.	452	At Capacity
Sam Boardman E.S.	407	At Capacity

*At capacity means that mid-year student enrollment is equal to the capacity of the school according to the school's administration.

Source: Personal communication with school district officials from the cities in the project area.